

and at least one of order fulfillment for the chemical supplier transaction and payment processing for the chemical supplier transaction;

a web browser associated with at least one trading member, wherein the trading member generates data and transmits the data through the web browser to the clearinghouse computer server in an original format compatible with a clearinghouse format;

an enterprise resource planning system configured to manage resources of at least another trading member, including product supply chain management; and

a translation server coupled to the enterprise resource planning system and to the clearinghouse computer server, the translation server converting data in a format of the enterprise resource planning system into a converted format of the clearinghouse computer server and forwarding the converted data to the clearinghouse computer server, wherein the converted data and the original format data correspond to communications between a first trading member and a second trading member that relate to initiation of a chemical supplier transaction, order fulfillment for the chemical supplier transaction, and payment processing for the chemical supplier transaction.

2. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the messages corresponding to communications in the chemical supplier transaction relate to both order fulfillment for the transaction and payment processing for the transaction.

4. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse computer server includes a supplier managed inventory component that monitors an inventory of the first trading member and in response to the inventory reaching a preset level, generating and transmitting a purchase order to the second trading member that was pre-designated as a supplier for the first trading member.

5. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of member businesses is a shipping company and the clearinghouse computer server includes a shipment tracking component that receives shipment tracking information from the shipping company and that provides the shipment tracking information to the member businesses.

6. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse computer server includes a business intelligence component that aggregates data passing through the

Appl. No. : 09/493,794
Filed : January 28, 2000

clearinghouse computer server and that mines the aggregated data for information requested by the member businesses.

7. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of member businesses is a shipping company and the clearinghouse computer server includes a logistics procurement component that receives shipment requests from trading members and forwards shipment proposals from the shipping members to the trading members.

8. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the messages are extensible markup language (XML) messages.

a2
9. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse computer server includes a product catalog component that stores a product catalog of products available for sale from the member businesses and forward results of search requests of the catalog to the member businesses.

10. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the clearinghouse computer includes a regulatory reporting component that receives information relating to a required regulatory report from one of the member businesses, generates a regulatory report for the one member, and transmits the report to an appropriate regulatory authority.

12. (Amended) The network of Claim 11, wherein at least a first one of the trading members includes:

a3
an enterprise resource planning system configured to manage resources of the first trading member, including product supply chain management; and a translation server coupled to the enterprise resource planning system and to the clearinghouse, the translation server converting data in a format of the enterprise resource planning system into a format of the clearinghouse and forwarding the converted data to the clearinghouse; wherein

the converted data corresponds to communications between the first trading member and a second trading member that relates to initiation of a chemical supplier transaction, order fulfillment for the transaction, and payment processing for the transaction.

a4
15. (Amended) The network of Claim 11, wherein the clearinghouse includes a supplier managed inventory component that monitors an inventory of a first one of the trading members and in response to the inventory reaching a preset level, generating and transmitting a

Appl. No. : 09/493,794
Filed : January 28, 2000

purchase order to a second one of the trading members that was pre-designated as a supplier for the first member.

16. (Amended) The network of Claim 11, wherein the clearinghouse includes a shipment tracking component that receives shipment tracking information from the shipping member and that provides the shipment tracking information to the trading members.

17. (Amended) The network of Claim 11, wherein the clearinghouse includes a business intelligence component that aggregates data passing through the clearinghouse and that mines the aggregated data for information requested by the members.

18. (Amended) The network of Claim 11, wherein the clearinghouse includes a logistics procurement component that receives shipment requests from trading members and forwards shipment proposals from the shipping member to the trading members.

19. (Amended) The network of Claim 11, wherein the clearinghouse includes a product catalog component that stores a product catalog of products available for sale from the trading members and forwards results of search requests of the catalog to the trading members.

af 20. (Amended) A method for facilitating chemical supplier transactions between members in a trading network comprising:

receiving a purchase order for a product at a clearinghouse from a member of the network and directed to a second member of the network;

forwarding the purchase order from the clearinghouse to second trading member of the network;

receiving shipment proposals at the clearinghouse from a plurality of shipping members of the network to ship the product associated with the purchase order;

receiving an invoice at the clearinghouse from the second trading member for the product; and

forwarding the invoice to the first trading member and to a pre-designated banking member of the network first trading.

as 31. (Amended) A method for facilitating chemical supplier transactions between members in a trading network through the use of a clearinghouse, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a first message relating to a chemical supplier commerce transaction at an enterprise resource planning computer system associated with at least one member of